

DEPARTMENT OF ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE.

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Climbing Roses of Southern California.

Mrs. Georgiana S. Townsend wrote an account of the climbing Roses of California, which was printed in Vick's Family Magazine. Many of the varieties described are old favorites, but some of them may be new to you. It must be owing to a difference in soil that roses grow so much more thrifty in California than they do here. Probably we do not use enough fertilizer. Where it is attainable some clay mixed with the soil for Roses will be a great advantage. Roses also need plenty of water. We have had them for over 20 years on flatwoods land where the soil is often saturated for weeks at a time. It would no doubt be better for them if it was drained, but they have done well in spite of the lack of drainage. Mrs. Townsend's article is as follows:

In nothing are we of sunny southern California so rich as in our climbing roses. The colder climates may raise hybrid perpetuals, and have the fragrance of teas during the summer, but wherever the frost touches, our climbing roses are too tender except in a greenhouse.

The best known of the climbing roses is of course Marechal Niel. The color is unequalled, being the very finest yellow, clear, with no hint of sulphur, nor saffron nor rose. Next it has the most delicious fragrance, all its own, and its buds are beyond compare. In California it does not do as well as in the southern states less dry. Mildew attacks it and makes the branches unsightly, but it can be trimmed back; the new growth will be fresh for some time.

Next in popularity is LaMarque. It has no faults of growth. The buds are of exquisite shape and while the full-blown Marechal Niel is not very admirable, not so with LaMarque. The open rose is very handsome. The center is a lemon color, and the remaining petals a pure clear white. It is fragrant like the real old-fashioned garden roses. It trains into a tree nicely.

Reine Marie Henrietta is queenly in color, a rich crimson, clear and unfading. It does not become purple. The flower is loose and large, very effective. It bears many roses on each stem, as does LaMarque, but it is not so constant a bloomer as the latter. At no time in the year is LaMarque without its buds.

Reve D'Or is a rose of exquisite grace. The buds are saffron yellow, fine form, and borne in sprays. The open rose shows a flushed center against the saffron, making a delicious combination of colors. Each petal curves backward until each tip is sharply pointed, making an open rose of remarkable beauty. It is also one which lasts well when cut.

Laurette is trained into trees more than allowed to climb, but it has a decided climbing habit. In growth it is strong, sending out blossom shoots two feet long. Generally there is but one rose to a shoot at one time. In the bud it is of fine form, and the rose itself is lovely, with thick waxy-white petals, spotted or dashed with carmine. It has no fragrance, but its fine substance gives it distinction.

Climbing Clotilde Soupert is the same as the dwarf Soupert. The buds are very dainty, white tinged pink, and the full flower has a most delicious rose fragrance. The foliage is graceful also. It is a persistent bloomer, and in springtime is covered with blossoms.

Solfaterre is a sulphur-colored rose, with good buds, but a full rose of

not much grace. It has no fragrance to recommend it. The fragrant rose may lack grace, but it is beloved. The graceless, odorless rose should take a back place in the floral kingdom.

William Allen Richardson is fine. It is a coppery-yellow; yellow that shades into the burnished hints of red which copper holds. It is a full rose, but fragrant, and the buds are of fine brown, its color is one of the best, something astonishing.

Cloth of Gold blooms freely once a year, with a few, shy blossoms at other times. The petals have a clear yellow color, darker than lemon, but lighter than Marechal Niel. It is in bud and full blossom, one of the most beautiful of roses. The full blown rose is like a water lily. It is not fragrant, but it has color and form to challenge admiration. It is a rose which suffers with mildew.

Gold of Ophir blooms once a year. It makes prodigious growth, covering everything, and when in bloom has thousands of small golden roses. It is truly a sight worth seeing.

Climbing Hermosa is one of the finest pinks. It has the same habits as the old favorite Hermosa.

The finest white climber is Madame Robert Peary. It is absolutely perfect. The buds are the most exquisite of any rose, and the open blossom loses nothing of its grace. Added to its hardiness and perpetual blooming qualities, it has a delicious fragrance. It was a sport from Kaiserine Augusta Victoria, and although not so well known yet as Niphetos, it will surely take its place, as it is pure white, and Niphetos is often tinged.

Crimson Rambler is not a great favorite with us, it blooms only once a year, and we demand of our roses a constant supply.

The Banksia roses are another class of annual bloomers. They are used on fences and sheds. The colors are pure white and pale yellow. They are small but borne in great profusion and are very fragrant. A peculiarity of them is that the roses are borne on the old wood, and that must not be pruned. All other roses are benefited by a vigorous pruning.

\$20,000,000 Yearly Spent for Flowers.

We think that our readers will be interested to know something of the enormous development that the florist business has attained within a few years. Mr. John Thorpe, a florist wrote an article which was published in the Chicago Tribune:

Horticulture in all its branches is agriculture desiccated and intensified. Floriculture is one of its branches. The marvelous growth the industry has enjoyed since 1875 is the wonder of the world.

It is true, that previous to that year there were in the cities of the Eastern states and a few Southern towns, establishments, on a small scale, devoted to the growing of plants and a few cut flowers, and, as a rule, the products of these were sold directly to the consumer. Such were the forerunners of the giants of today.

The United States' census for 1900 shows that in that year there were 6,159 commercial florists in the United States. More than one-half of the establishments have less than three acres, indicating that the land other than that under glass and occupied by small buildings is a small improved tract. Of the total of 42,662 acres reported 34,704 acres, or 81 3-10 per cent, are improved land.

The total investment in land, buildings and other improvements was \$50,708,671. The investment in land was \$28,024,715 and in buildings and other improvements \$22,683,956, while the value of implements was \$1, 366, 887.

The total product was \$18,422,522, or an average of \$2,991 for each florist. This included \$17,377,860 of florists' products and \$1,044,662 of miscellaneous products. The expenditure for labor was \$4,155,979, or 22 6-10 per

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cent of the total value of the products, showing a higher ratio among the florists than in most other lines of agriculture.

Floriculture Stimulates Trade.—It will be readily understood what an important stimulus floriculture has become to other trades and business. For instance, a few years ago, the manufacturers of glass scarcely gave the florists' trade any consideration; now there is as much competition for the florists' trade as there is for that of the house builders. Then, there are the boiler-makers, of which there are upwards of a score who make only boilers for horticultural buildings. Miles and miles of iron piping are used from year to year. Millions of feet of lumber are used, special cypress lumber being used for sash bars at a price far in advance of other kinds. Then there are soil, manure, cement, paints, oils, and packing materials. Many establishments keep their own carpenters, painters, pipe-fitters and engineers.

The quantities of coal necessary to heat these establishments are enormous. Several establishments in the neighborhood of Chicago are among the largest consumers in the business. At one of these immense flower and plant factories belonging to a city alderman, there were consumed last season 30,000 tons.

Leading Winter Roses.—Strangely enough, of more than 2,000 varieties

of roses that are catalogued and grown, there are scarcely a dozen kinds adapted for growing successfully in greenhouses during the winter months. These are American Beauty, Bride, Bridesmaid, Liberty, Meteor, La France, Machatenay, Golden Gate, Ivory, Perle des Jardins, Sunrise and Uncle John. Rose growers are in expectation of having a sensational new flower next year. Its name is Richmond, and was raised at Richmond, Indiana. It is as large and as bright and as sweet as the famous old General Jacqueminot.

Five Roses Sold for \$4,000 Each.—Enormous prices are paid for the control for some of the new roses. During the last 15 or 20 years \$4,000 and \$5,000 each have been paid for five roses, none of which are grown today for winter flowering, as they proved inferior to existing kinds. The cultivation of roses for cut flowers is more or less fraught with uncertainty and requires at all times careful watching as to temperature, watering and grooming.

Carnations are grown in enormous quantities everywhere, but more are grown in Chicago and vicinity than in any other district.

It is within the last 12 years that carnations have made such rapid strides. In looking over a catalogue of varieties that were at the top in 1896, there is scarcely one of them grown today. New varieties are ob-